

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 8, line 8 and ending at page 9, line 11.

"Aging" according to the present invention is defined as a step of controlling electron emission characteristics, for example, by applying to an electron-emitting device a voltage higher than a voltage to be applied during a normal image display driving operation; by irradiating an electron-emitting portion with electrons having energy higher than that of electrons applied to the electron-emitting portion during the normal image display operation (a source for emitting electrons having this high energy is not limited to an electron-emitting device as a component of the image display apparatus, and may be an independent electron beam source that does not contribute to image display operation); or by irradiating an electron-emitting portion with UV. By performing this step preliminary, abrupt changes in characteristics in the subsequent steps, especially after driving operation for actual image display is started, can be suppressed. When ~~that~~ the amount of emission current obtained by applying a predetermined voltage, in particular, (a voltage which is equal in magnitude to a voltage to be applied for actual image display operation and has a value in the range of voltage values to be applied for the actual image display operation) to an electron-emitting device after aging is smaller than the amount of emission current obtained by applying the predetermined voltage to the electron-emitting device before aging, an abrupt change in characteristics from the start of this driving operation (image display operation) can preferably be suppressed over a long period of time.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 12, line 23 and ending at page 13, line 13.

On the basis of the above discoveries, the present inventors have attained an inventive technique of using the seal bonding step in a seal ~~boding~~ bonding chamber in which a vacuum atmosphere is realized, and performing the voltage application step prior to the seal bonding step. Note that "activation" in this case indicates the step of increasing the emission current amount when a voltage is applied to an electron-emitting device, in which the emission current amount obtained by applying a predetermined voltage to an electron-emitting device having undergone the activation step is larger than the emission current amount obtained by applying the predetermined voltage to the electron-emitting device before activation. Cold cathode devices, and more specifically, field-emission devices and surface conduction electron-emitting devices which are designed to emit electrons by applying a voltage between two electrodes can be activated by depositing a deposit on the gap portion between the two electrodes.